

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TREASURY

INFO USSAGE NKP

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

COGARD

XMT AMEMBASSY SUVA

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

UNCLAS STATE 115107

COGARD FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XC, US

SUBJECT:MAY 16 EA PRESS SUMMARY

1. INDOCHINA

MAYAGUEZ INCIDENT STILL DOMINATES HEADLINES. MOST PAPERS
FEATURE STORIES OF MIL ACTION INVOLVED, BUT REPORTS OF
CASUALTY NUMBERS VARY FROM 1-2, SOME SAY 14 MIA. NYT,
CHITRIB, SUN (AP), CARRY CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS FROM SEIZURE
ON MAY 12 TO RECOVERY, RESCUE MAY 15. SECDEF ASSERTS
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OPERATION AFFIRMED FREEDOM OF SEAS (FINNEY, NYT). STILL
UNKNOWN HOW COSTLY OPERATION WAS; MAYAGUEZ CREW, PICKED
UP AT SEA WITH THAI FISHERMEN ON BOAT EARLIER IMPOUNDED
BY CAMBODIANS, MAY HAVE BEEN TAKEN TO KOMPONG SOM BEFORE

BEING PUT ON BOAT. EXPLANATIONS STILL CONFUSING WHY CAMBODIANS RELEASED THEM (GETLER, WP; CORDDRY, SUN). NYT DESCRIBES KOH TANG ISLAND, WHERE MARINES LANDED. NYT'S MIDDLETON REPORTS HEAVY RESISTANCE SURPRISED MARINES. NYT APPLE NOTES CONSIDERABLE CONFUSION AS TO WHY AIR STRIKES AGAINST MAINLAND CARRIED OUT ALMOST AT MOMENT WHEN MAYAGUEZ CREW APPROACHING DESTROYER ON SMALL FISHING BOAT.

PRES REPORTS TO HILL ON USE OF FORCES UNDER WAR POWERS ACT (KILPATRICK, WP). NYT, WP, CHITRIB PRINT TEXT OF FORD'S

LETTER TO CONGRESS EXPLAINING INCIDENT. DEMANDS IGNORED, DIPLOMATIC PLEA THROUGH CHINESE FELL FLAT, SO PRES ATTACKED (MCCARTNEY, PHINQ) SINCE BELIEVED NO CHOICE BUT USE FORCE FOR RESCUE. FORD FEARED WORLD WOULD THINK US "PAPER TIGER" IF DID NOT ORDER MIL ACTION (CARTER, NYDN). COATES (CHITRIB) DESCRIBES HOW PRES DIRECTED BATTLE. FORD, WH STAFF RELIEVED AT SUCCESS OF RESCUE (KUMPA, SUN).

DOMESTIC, FOREIGN TRIUMPH SEEN AS US REASSERTS PRESENCE ABROAD (NAUGHTON, NYT). CONGRESSMEN GENERALLY ENDORSE MIL ACTION, BUT SOME NOTE LAW REQUIRES CONSULTATIONS (ROSENBAUM, NYT). CONGRESS FULL OF PRAISE FOR ADMIN HANDLING OF MAYAGUEZ INCIDENT (PEPPER, SUN; ANTEVIL, NYDN). PRES' ACTION ENHANCES POLITICAL POSITION, ESPECIALLY AMONG OWN PARTY CONSERVATIVES (FRIEDMAN, PHINQ). SUCCESSFUL MAYAGUEZ RECOVERY BOLSTERS PRES' POLITICAL STOCK, RAISES MIL MORALE (LEVINE, WSJ). FORD ACTION APPLAUDED BY FRIENDS, FOES (CANNON, WP). WORLD, US APPROVE RESCUE (CHITRIB). MAYAGUEZ ACTION TRIUMPH FOR PRES (SPERLING, CSM). MAN IN STREET BACKS FORD (MORRIS, WP). CAMBODIA INCIDENT GETS MIXED REVIEWS IN LA EATERY (AARONS, WP). NYDN'S WIEGHART WONDERS IF RESCUE WAS TUNE OF GLORY OR SAME SAD SONG OF STANDING UP TO COMMUNIST THREAT SEA. IN BOSTON, ;50 PROTESTED US MIL ACTION IN CAMBODIA (AP, NYT).

MAYAGUEZ INCIDENT EVOKES INTL COMMENT. AT 5/15 WH FETE, UNCLASSIFIED

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SHAH COMPLIMENTED US ON RECOVERY OF SHIP AND CREW (RADCLIFFE/SMYTH, WP). POLITICIANS PRESENT SPREAD OF VIEWS ON INCIDENT AT FRENCH EMBASSY DINNER (MITCHELL, WP). US ACTION BACKED IN EUR, BUT SOME SEE GUNBOAT POLITICS (SHUSTER, NYT). UK, FRENCH, FRG GOVTS STEERED CLEAR OF COMMENT (HILL, SUN). MAYAGUEZ RESCUE CRITICIZED BY PRC, CAMBODIAN DIPLOMATS IN PEKING, NVN, INDIA (RUETER, SUN). ALLIES PLEASED, BUT COMMUNIST CAPITALS COOL (CSM). INCIDENT IMPROVES US IMAGE IN WORLD ACCORDING DOS, WHERE OFFICIALS TEND DISCOUNT DAMAGE DONE THAILAND. PEKING ACCUSES US OF PIRACY. IN HK, OBSERVERS BELIEVE TOP PRC LEADERSHIP GLAD AT FIRM US STAND BECAUSE MAY SERVE STABILIZE AREA. OPPOSITION PARTIES, PAPERS OBJECT USE OF HOME-

COUNTRY BASES IN JAPAN, WHILE GOJ CALLS US MOVE "JUST ACTION." DELHI HAS NO OFFICIAL REACTION, BUT PAPERS CALL ACTION SHOCKING.

NVN CONDEMNS US FOR "ACT OF WAR." USSR HAS NO COMMENT. MOST IN UK PUBLICLY APPLAUDED US MOVE, THOUGH SOME DISQUIETE OVER "PRECIPITATE USE OF FORCE." BELGRADE COMPARES ACTION TO TONKIN GULF INCIDENT. FRG AND PAPERS GENERALLY SUPPORT US. ME REACTION MIXED (BERGER, WP). PRC SAYS US

HAS NOT LEARNED LESSON FROM INDOCHINA. WESTERN DIPLOMATS CONSIDER WORDING ABOUT AS RESTRAINED AS PRC GOVT COULD MAKE IT, GIVEN CLOSE TIES WITH PP (GLOBE AND MAIL, NYT). INITIAL KREMLIN "NO COMMENT" STANCE SUGGESTS USSR CONCERNED ABOUT SAYING ANYTHING THAT COULD JEOPARDIZE ACCOMMODATION WITH US. MOSCOW ALSO HAS OWN PROBLEMS WITH NEW PP GOVT (WREN, NYT). USSR GAVE STRAIGHTFORWARD REPORT, AVOIDED CRITICISM (SUN).

RESCUED CREWMEN SET SAIL ABROAD MAYAGUEZ (PHINQ). SHIP'S CREW HAD KEY PART AS RESCUE UNFOLDED (GREENE, NYDN). MAYAGUEZ'S SKIPPER WIRES THANKS TO PRES (UPI, NYT). OWNERS DENY FREIGHTER HAD SECRET MISSION (WAGGONER, NYT; MCKEOWN, NYDN). SEA-LAND CHAIRMAN SAYS WILL OPEN VESSEL, CARGO TO PUBLIC INSPECTION WHEN IT REACHES SINGAPORE THIS WEEK TO PROVE SHIP WAS PEACEFUL (HOLTON, PHINQ). USG WARNING US MERCHANT SHIPS AVOID GULF OF THAILAND AREA WHERE MAYAGUEZ GRABBED REMAINS IN EFFECT (SKARTVEDT, JOC). UNCLASSIFIED

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MAYAGUEZ'S SISTER SHIP, PONCE, TO FOLLOW SAME COURSE HK-SATTAHIP (ISAACS, WP). SOME PAPERS DO HUMAN-INTEREST STORIES ON MAYAGUEZ CREW FAMILIES.

CAMBODIANS SAY DECIDED LET MAYAGUEZ GO BECAUSE TOO WEAK TO HAVE CONFRONTATION WITH US (REUTER, NYT). PP ISSUES COMMUNIQUE (TEXT IN NYT) ACCUSING US OF SPYING, IMPERIALISM (CHITRIB). CALLS MAYAGUEZ INCIDENT "BARBAROUS" ACT, CHARGES MANY SPY SHIPS SENT. DOS' FUNSETH DENIES PP CHARGES (MARDER, WP). ADM MOORER SEES SEIZURE COMMUNISTS' TEST OF US WILL (NYDN). ADMIN OFFICIALS SAY MAYAGUEZ RESCUE UNDERTAKEN IN PART TO ALERT NK, OTHER COMMUNIST COUNTRIES, US READY TO MEET FORCE WITH FORCE TO PROTECT ITS INTERESTS (GWERTZMAN, NYT - IN USIA READING FILE).

CAMBODIA HINTS LONG BORET, SIRIK MATAK EXECUTED (WP). LIU GIVING SCHANBERG POLK AWARD (NYT).

STUDENT DEMONSTRATORS THREATEN KILL 3 AMERICAN HOSTAGES UNLESS COALITION REMOVES CORRUPT OFFICIALS, REACTIONARY RIGHTISTS FROM POWER, ACCORDING DIPLOMATIC SOURCES. US

EMBASSY SOURCE SAYS STUDENTS UNLIKELY CARRY OUT THREAT, BUT BEING TAKEN SERIOUSLY (AP WP, PHINQ, SUN). DEMONSTRATOR FREE HOSTAGES, KEEP CONTROL OF US BUILDINGS IN SAVANNAKHET (UPI, NYDN). US AIDES SAFE BUT RESTRICTED, UNDER "VOLUNTARY HOUSE ARREST" (ANDELMAN). USAID OFFICIALS FLEE LUANG PRABAN AS TURN TOWARD GREATER VIOLENCE CASTS CONSIDERABLE DOUBT OVER FUTURE PROGRAM IN LAOS. US REDUCING IN-COUNTRY

PRESENCE MORE RAPIDLY THAN ORIGINALLY PLANNED (CSM).

CDN'S KEYES BEECH (STLP-D 5/11) QUOTES RELIABLE SOURCES THAT USSR, HUNGARY AND FRANCE EXPRESSED SUCH CONVICTION POLITICAL SOLUTION POSSIBLE THAT US EMBASSY ACCEPTED VIEWS UNTIL 11TH HR IN SAIGON. RCS THRIVE IN NVN, PRAISED FOR PATRIOTISM (AP, WP).

NEW SAIGON REGIME OPENS VICTORY CELEBRATION, OFFERS RELATION WITH US (AP, NYT), ALL COUNTRIES (PHINQ). POTENTIAL CONFLICT OVER SVN FUTURE AS INDEPENDENT ENTITY LOOMS AS PRG LEADERS UNCLASSIFIED

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OFFER DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH US (WP). SAIGON ASSIGNS ALGERIANS TAKE OVER DC EMBASSY (AP, SUN). DOS ACKNOWLEDGES RECEIPT SAIGON NOTE EMPOWERING ALGERIANS TAKE OVER SVN EMBASSY (AP, NYT). CANADA RECOGNIZES NEW SAIGON REGIME (WP; AP, NYT). PRG DEL WILL GO BANGKOK TO NEGOTIATE RETURN AIRCRAFT, BOATS USED BY FLEEING VIETS (WP).

TIME RUNNING OUT ON SAIGON'S CONSUMER SOCIETY, PEOPLE MAY FACE LEAN TIMES (MANCHESTER GUARDIAN'S WOOLLACOTT, WP). WESTERN PHOTOGRAPHERS SAW US ARMY DESERTERS DRIVING TRUCKS ON CENTRAL COAST (REUTER, NYT).

DELAYS LOOM IN REFUGEE AID (AP, CHITRIB) AS SENATE POSTPONES ACTION ON AUTHORIZATION BILL (NYT; SUN). NYT'S MALCOLM DESCRIBES TENT CITY ON GUAM. NORDHEIMER (NYT) DOES SERIES OF VIGNETTES ON GUAM REFUGEES WHOSE LIVES TANGLED BY WAR. CSM HAS CENTERSPREAD OF PHOTOS (MATHENY) DEPICTING REFUGEE LIFE AT CHAFFEE.

2. JAPAN

SUN'S SEIDEN IN TOKYO SAYS JAPANESE VIEW CHILLY WELCOME FOR SVIET REFUGEES IN US AS "SHOCKING AND DISTURBING" SIGN OF RACISM. FEARS FUELED BY NEWS FROM US, REPORTED TREATMENT OF JAPANESE, KOREAN EMBASSIES DURING US EVACUATION SAIGON. QUOTES "VISIBLY SHAKEN" HIGH MOFA OFFICIAL THAT US REACTION TO REFUGEES HAS CREATED "HUMAN CREDIBILITY GAP HERE."

MOF THURSDAY REPORTED JAPAN HAD 132 MILLION DOL

TRADE SURPLUS APRIL, ON 4.7 BILLION DOLS WORTH
IMPORTS, 4.83 BILLION DOLS EXPORTS (AP, PHINQ).

INDUSTRY SOURCES SAY NVN SOUNDING THEM OUT FOR
HELP BUILDING INTEGRATED STEEL MIL (JOC, TOKYO).

GOJ SAYS JFY 74 COAL IMPORTS TOTALED 64.2 MILLION
TONS, UP 10.6 PERCENT FROM LAST YEAR; MOSTLY FROM
US, AUSTRALIA, CANADA, SOVIET AND POLAND (JOC, TOKYO).
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AUTO MAKERS SETTLE ANNUAL WAGE TALKS, GRANT PAY
HIKES SLIGHTLY LESS THAN 15 PERCENT GUIDLINE
(WSJ, TOKYO).

JOC'S CULLISON IN TOKYO SAYS FIVE BANKS (IN JAPAN,
CANADA, BRAZIL, AUSTRALIA) SIGNED AGREEMENT THURSDAY
WITH KUWAIT INVESTMENT CO TO SET UP JOINT VENTURE
KUWAIT PACIFIC IN HK, TO HANDLE PETROLDOL OPERATIONS
IN PACIFIC REGION.

NYT'S HALLORAN IN TOKYO SAYS SENIOR GOJ OFFICIALS TAKE
"UNUSUALLY FORTHRIGHT" STAND, STATE US ACTION FREE
MAYAGUEZ "JUSTIFIED." DEPFM TOGO TOLD PRESS US ACTED
RESCUE AMCITS FROM PIRACY BY CAMBODIANS, AND MAYBE
"DID NOT HAVE ENOUGH TIME TO THINK ABOUT THAILAND."
MOFA SPOKESMAN TOLD PRESS US ACTION JUSTIFIED BECUASE
SHIP ON HIGH SEAS MUST NOT BE SUBJECT SEIZURE.

3. KOREA

USAF FIGHTER CRASHES INTO PUSAN FACTORY, KILLING FIVE,
INJURING TEN; TWO CREW PARACHUTED TO SAFETY (WP).
PHINQ SAYS ONE BAILED OUT, ONE MISSING.

6. THAILAND

THOUSANDS OF THAI DEMONSTRATORS BURN PRES IN EFFIGY
IN PROTEST USE OF THAI BASES IN MAYAGUEZ RESCUE
(WSJ, PHINQ). ALMOST ALL MARINES WITHDRAWN AFTER
OPERATION (AP, CHITRIB; WP).

KUKRIT TOLD PRESS THURSDAY WILL TAKE STEPS, NOT
SPECIFIED, TO PREVENT SIMILAR "UNFRIENDLY" ACTION
BY US IN FUTURE, AND WILL REVIEW POLICY WITH CHATICHAI
WHEN RETURNS FROM ASEAN MEETING FRIDAY (GREENWAY,
WP; AP, CHITRIB); BUT WOULD STOP SHORT OF BREAKING
RELATIONS WITH US (PHINQ). MFA SPOKESMAN SAYS RESCUE
OPERATION MAY LEAD SPEEDING-UP US TROOP WITHDRAWAL;
ALSO EXPRESSES BELIEF MASTER'S EXPLANATION TO RTG
THAT HE KEPT IN DARK ON WHOLE AFFAIR (AP, CHITRIB).

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BROWNE (NYT) CITES RTG SPOKESMAN TELLING PRESS THURSDAY US GUILTY OF "BREACH OF FAITH" IN USING BASES, BUT NOTES ANOTHER SENIOR OFFICIAL SAYING PRIVATELY THAILAND COULD WORK OUT POLICY IF KNEW HANOI'S INTENTIONS, AND US "CAPABILITY AND DESIRE" REMAIN FORCE IN AREA.

SOUTHERLAND (CSM) SAYS THAI INDIGNATION SEEMS REAL, BUT BEHIND PROTEST OPINION DIVIDED; RTG ITSELF NOT UNITED, AND SOME THAIS, INCLUDING MILITARY, QUIETLY APPLAUDING US RESCUE EFFORT.

MILLS (WSTAR) CITES DOS OFFICIAL SAYING CAMBODIANS DIDN'T REPLY DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS, AND US HAD NO CHOICE BUT ACT QUICKLY -- IF ASKED, THAIS WOULD HAVE HAD SAY NO, BUT NOW RTG CAN MAINTAIN NEUTRAL STANCE BY PROTESTING AFTER FACT (5/15).

7. PHILIPPINES

HISTORIC MANILA HOTEL TORN DOWN, BUT FACADE RETAINED FOR MODERN HOTEL TO BE BUILT ON SITE (REUTER, CSM).

8. ASEAN

FONMINS CONCLUDED MEETING AT KL AMID SIGNS MAY RECOMMEND AGAINST JAKARTA MEETING SCHEDULED JUNE SINCE MIGHT BE INTERPRETED BY INDOCHINA COMMUNIST REGIMES AS TRY "GANG UP" ON THEM (WP). MEMBERS UNABLE COMPLETE TREATY OF AMITY, COOPERATION, WILL SUBJECT ACCORD TO FURTHER STUDY. ALSO COULDN'T FORMULATE JOINT POLICY ON HOW ASEAN WILL RESPOND TO CHANGING INDOCHINA POL SITUATION (NYT).

9. GENERAL

WSJ (WASHINGTON) CITES DOS CONDEMNATION OF ILLEGAL PAYMENTS BY US FIRMS DOING BUSINESS ABROAD, SUGGESTION FOREIGN GOVTS CLARIFY RULES ON FINDER'S FEES, COMMISSIONS, POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS THAT MAY NOT BE ILLEGAL. QUOTES DEPSEC INGERSOLL IN INTERVIEW ADVISING CAUTION IN CONDEMNING PRACTICES, THAT IN MANY CASES MAY NOT BE IMPROPER, BUT SUGGESTING "WOULD BE IN OUR INTEREST IF RULES WERE CLEAR."

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TICES, THAT IN MANY CASES MAY NOT BE IMPROPER, BUT SUGGESTING "WOULD BE IN OUR INTEREST IF RULES WERE CLEAR."

10. CHINA

LI HSIEN-NIEN CALLS MAYAGUEZ RESCUE "OUTRIGHT ACT OF PIRACY" BY US (AP, CHITRIB).

RANDAL (WP) IN PARIS NOTES FRENCH HOSTED TENG HSIAO-PENG AS "HEIR-APPARENT". SIFTING THROUGH TOASTS, OTHER HINTS, BELIEVES GISCARD WON'T REVISE PUBLIC STAND US-SOVIET DETENTE GENUINE, DESPITE PRC INSISTENCE KREMLIN DETERMINED, IN AGE OF US DECLINE, EXPAND EMPIRE WITH WEUR AS NO. 1 TARGET. CITES FRENCH SOURCES THAT PRC FOR FIRST TIME ACCEPTED EXISTENCE OF ISRAEL, ALTHOUGH PARIS, PEKING BOTH INSIST ON NEED RESPECT PALESTINIAN RIGHTS.

JOC'S RYAN IN PARIS SAYS CHINESE, FRENCH DISCUSSED MEANS INCREASE BILATERAL TRADE, AND TENG REITERATED PRC SUPPORT FOR INTL ENERGY CONFERENCE.

THREE US OIL EXPERTS PREDICT AT WPC (TOKYO) THAT LION'S SHARE OF UNTAPPED OIL RESERVES IN EA EVENTUALLY WILL BE FOUND IN PRC (UPI, JOC).

IN ROME, THREE-MAN DELEGATION FROM ALL CHINA SPORTS FEDERATION LOBBIED THURSDAY FOR ADMISSION TO OLYMPIC GAMES. OFFICIALS FROM 90 COUNTRIES ATTENDING ASSEMBLY NATL OLYMPICS COMMITTEES DIVIDED DOWN MIDDLE ON ISSUE (AP, SUN).

WU NAN-JU, FORMER GRC AMBASSADOR TO IRAN, KUWAIT, DIES OF HEART ATTACK IN GEORGETOWN U HOSPITAL MONDAY, AT AGE 76 (WP).

COMMENT AND ANALYSIS

11. INDOCHINA

SUN SAYS WRONG TWO DAYS AGO IN SUGGESTING HANDFUL OF MARINES COULD NOT PROTECT MAYAGUEZ CREW HELD IN UNCLASSIFIED

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HOSTILE CUSTODY. RESCUE OPERATION BOOSTS PRES PERSONALLY; BUT WORLD WILL BE SAFER PLACE AFTERWARDS ONLY IF US AND ADVERSARIES BEHAVE MORE PRUDENTLY (IN USIA WIRELESS FILE). CSM COMMENDS PRES FORD'S HANDLING OF MAYAGUEZ AFFAIR; ACTION CERTAIN SOLIDIFY COMMUNIST ANTI-AMERICANISM, BUT NEW CAMBODIAN GOVT MUST LEARN THAT ACCEPTANCE IN INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY MEANS ABIDING BY RESPONSIBLE BEHAVIOR NORMS (IN USIA WIRELESS FILE).

NYT SAYS PPORT PRES NOW RECEIVING PREMISED ON STATEMENTS ABOUT INCIDENT; NEED CAREFUL CONGRESSIONAL PROBE. NYT'S WICKER SEES MAYAGUEZ OPERATION DESIGNED DEMONSTRATE US STILL HAS WILL, POWER, BUT RAISES SERIOUS QUESTIONS

ABOUT EFFICACY OF WAR POWERS RESOLUTION, AND CONGRESS

UNLIKELY QUARREL TOO MUCH WITH RESCUE SINCE SUCCESSFUL.
RESTON (NYT) SUGGESTS MAIN RESULT OF MAYAGUEZ RESCUE
WAS IN TERMS OF PERSONAL POLITICAL PLUS FOR FORD;
SEES SOME REASON FOR BELIEVING THAIS NOT SO SURPRISED
BY MARINES' LANDING AS THEY PRETENDED (ALL 3 IN USIA
WIRELESS FILE).

WP VOICES GRATITUDE MAYAGUEZ AND CREW SAFELY RESCUED,
HAS NO OBJECTION "NORMAL POLITICS" OF ADMIN MILKING
INCIDENT FOR POLITICAL VALUE, CAUTIONS AFFAIR NO
MEANINGFUL GUIDE TO REQUIREMENT OF POST-VN FOREIGN
POLICY (IN USIA WIRELESS FILE). GLOBE FEELS ADMIN
USED MAYAGUEZ TO FLEX US MUSCLES. ADVISES OUR LIMPING
FOREIGN POLICY WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER SERVED IF WE
HAD DECLARED TIME LIMIT PUBLICLY BEFORE RESORTING TO
ARMS. GLOBE'S SNOW CONTENTS WHOLE MAYAGUEZ EMERGENCY
FALLS SOMEWHAT SHORT OF "GRAVE"; POLITICAL, DIPLOMATIC
RAMIFICATIONS SURE TO FOLLOW.

TO PHINQ, RECOVERY OF MAYAGUEZ AND CREW NECESSARY --
WAS NOT REVIVAL OF SEA INVOLVEMENT AS THOSE ON LEFT
MAY PROTEST, AND NOT JINGOISTIC, PUNITIVE TANTRUM,
WHATEVER EXTREME VOICES ON RIGHT MIGHT DESIRE BELIEVE.
WSJ FIND MAYAGUEZ CASE PROVIDING REASSESSMENT OF PRES
FORD AS POSITIVE MAN, TO BE RESPECTED BY NATIONS
ABROAD AND BY POLITICAL FOES AT HOME. IN ACCOMPANYING
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EDIT, ARGUES THAT MAYAGUEZ OPERATION, EVEN HAD IT FAILED,
STILL WOULD HAVE BEEN NECESSARY ONE UNDER PREVAILING
CIRCUMSTANCES.

FOR CHITRIB, KOH TANG OPERATION WILL HAVE WHOLESOME
EFFECT ON US WORLD INFLUENCE, ON MORALE AT HOME, AND
ON FORD'S OWN IMAGE; CALCULATED RISK, BUT JUSTIFIED ONE.
TO NYDN, THIS WAS PRES' FINEST HOUR; DIPLOMACY HAD
CLEARLY FAILED, SO MILITARY MOVES ONLY ALTERNATIVE.

WILL (WP) CITES SUNDAY GATHERING OF 50,000 PEACE
ACTIVISTS IN MANHATTAN'S CENTRAL PARK CELEBRATING
PEACE THAT HAS COME TO INDOCHINA; NOTES NEW CAMBODIA
GOVT'S "PURIFICATION" OF CITIES. CHARLES MEYER (NYT)
OBSERVES KHMER ROUGE HAVE "DONE IN" WESTERN SPECIALISTS
IN ASIAN AFFAIRS AS RECENT EVENTS HAVE REVEALED
ORIGINAL CHARACTER OF CAMBODIAN REVOLUTION WITH ITS
DIVORCE FROM SIHANOUK AND HOSTILITY TOWARD PP (BOTH
IN USIA WIRELESS FILE). HARSCH (CSM) CITES REPORTS
SOVIET DIPLOMATS OUSTED BY NEW CAMBODIA REGIME,
ABSENCE SVN BLOODBATH, PL ASCENDANCY IN LAOS; SOVIET

APPEARS FAVORITE OUTSIDE POWER IN HANOI WITH PRC
FAVORITE IN PP (IN USIA WIRELESS FILE).

RESTON (NYT 5/14) DOESN'T SEE US TOTAL RECORD DAMAGED BY SEA POLICY DEFEAT. POST-WWII RECORD WILL CONVINCE ALLIES OF US DEPENDABILITY MORE THAN VERBAL ASSURANCES BY FORD, HAK. CHARLES YOST NOTES VN WITHDRAWAL CAUSES MILITARY ANXIETY IN NOT KNOWING WHAT THEY MUST BE PREPARED DEFEND. US SHOULD CONFIRM COMMITMENTS TO NATO, JAPAN, SK, PHILS, AUSTRALIA, NZ, BUT NOT ATTEMPT MAINTAIN MILITARY RELATIONSHIP WITH ANY NOT WANTING IT. NOYES (WSTAR 5/15) ADVOCATES STRONGER SUPPORT FOR US POSITIONS OF INFLUENCE IN OFFSHORE ASIAN AREAS (ALL IN USIA WIRELESS FILE).

STLP-D(5/11) COMMENTS FORD'S ANGER OVER AMERICANS' HOSTILITY TOWARD VIET REFUGEES JUSTIFIED THOUGH CONGRESS' PRELIMINARY ACTION SUGGESTS MOST IFNOT ALL PRES' \$507 MILLION REQUEST ASSIST VIET REFUGEES WILL PASS. UNCLASSIFIED

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SUSAN JACOBY (WP) NOTES AMERICANS HAVE ASSIMILATED MILLIONS BEFORE, SHOULD BE ABLE TO DO SO NOW. HOSTILITY STEMMING FROM FACT THAT VIET REFUGEES VISIBLE REMINDER OF WAR AMERICANS WOULD RATHER FORGET (IN USIA WIRELESS FILE). WIEDRICH(CHITRIB) CRITICIZES SENS MCGOVERN, ABOUREZK, KENNEDY, REV JESSE JACKSON FOR HOSTILE ATTITUDES TOWARD REFUGEES.

EVANS/NOVAK (PHINQ) SEE PL CAMPAIGN AS EVIDENCE DOMINO THEORY VIABILITY. SAME CONDITIONS FOR COMMUNIST CAMPAIGN EXIST IN THAILAND, LEAVING ALL ASIA FACING SAME PATTERN REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNISM.

12. GENERAL

RECENT GALLUP POLL MADE PUBLIC 5/11 INDICATES "LITTLE EVIDENCE ISOLATIONIST TREND" CONCERNING US MILITARY COMMITMENTS SINCE 1971.

IN RANKING US AID IN TIME OF NEED TO "12 KEY NATIONS" AROUND WORLD:

PHILS -- 29 PERCENT WOULD SEND US TROOPS, 34 PERCENT FAVORED SENDING SUPPLIES, 26 PERCENT WERE FOR NON-INVOLVEMENT;

JAPAN -- 16 PERCENT WOULD SEND US TROOPS, 35 PERCENT FAVORED SENDING SUPPLIES, 40 PERCENT WERE FOR

NON-INVOLVEMENT.

THAILAND (PRIOR TO 28 PERCENT SLASH IN US TROOP STRENGTH THERE) -- 10 PERCENT WOULD SEND TROOPS,

32 PERCENT FAVORED SENDING SUPPLIES, 46 PERCENT
PREFERRED NON-INVOLVEMENT;

ROC -- 8 PERCENT WOULD SEND TROOPS, 27 PERCENT WOULD
SEND SUPPLIES, 54 PERCENT FAVORED NON-INVOLVEMENT.

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CSM'S HARSCH (5/15) THANKS PM LEE FOR MOST SENSIBLE
REMARK ABOUT CONSEQUENCES OF US REFUSAL SAVE SAIGON --
SUGGESTION THAT WOULD BE HELPFUL FOR PRES AND CONGRESS
TO SPEAK WITH ONE VOICE (USIA WIRELESS FILE).

TUOHY (LAT 5/15) IN SINGAPORE RELATES HOW LEE, BEFORE
WASHINGTON VISIT, CITED FRIEND IN THAILAND SAYING
THAIS DEEPLY RESENT BEING COMPROMISED BY US FAR BEYOND
OWN SECURITY NEEDS, THEN "DISCARDED LIKE DISPOSABLE
NAPKINS." OBSERVES STORY UNDERSCORES FACT POLITICIANS
LIKE LEE BELIEVE WILL BE YEARS BEFORE US IMAGE, CREDIBILITY
CAN BE RESTORED.

AS DOMINOES DEBATE OWN FUTURE TUOHY POINTS
OUT LEE INSISTS DOMINO THEORY GREATLY OVERRATED,
AND WHAT VALID FOR FORMER FRENCH POSSESSIONS NOT
NECESSARILY TRUE FOR REST SEA. ALSO CITES GHAZALI
STATEMENT EUR NATIONS WENT COMMUNIST, BUT TO THIS DAY
FINLAND HAS NOT.

14. PHILIPPINES

WSTAR'S BARTLETT (5/13) DECLARES PHILIPPINES "NO
SHOWCASE" FOR US DEMOCRACY; 1951 TREATY HAS NOT
PRODUCED ALLIANCE TO WHICH MAJORITY AMERICANS WOULD
RALLY WITH ZEAL. THUS, WELCOMES SIGNS HAK DOES NOT
MEAN GET CAUGHT AGAIN IN PAINFUL CAMPAIGN, STAY
CLOSE TO AUTOCRATIC ORIENTAL LEADER AT ANY COST,
DESPITE TEMPTATION IMPLICIT IN EVOLUTION OF PHILIPPINES,
SK, INDONESIA AS OUTER LINE OF US INFLUENCE IN PACIFIC.

15. JAPAN

REVIEWING OPTIONS OPEN TO JAPAN AS IT UNDERGOES TWINGES
ABOUT SECURITY, LACHICA (CSM 5/15) STATES MANY INFORMED
JAPANESE PERCEIVE GREATEST THREAT IN KOREA; AS RESULT,

THERE MORE TACIT WILLINGNESS PROVIDE BACKUP FOR US
DEFENSE OF BOTH JAPAN AND SK, AND EVEN US USE OF BASES
IN JAPAN TO HELP VN EVACUATION DID NOT STIR UP CUSTOMARY
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PROTESTS IN DIET (USIA WIRELESS FILE).

16. KOREA

LAT'S JAMESON (5/15) QUOTES DRP'S PARK JOON KYU SAYING SK SICK AND TIRED OF NK THREAT; FOREMOST CONCERN MUST BE GUARD AGAINST COMMUNIST INTRUSIONS; AND PRES PARK PLANS NO RETURN TO DEMOCRACY WHILE KIM IL-SUNG REMAINS IN POWER. ASKS "WOULD US KEEP TROOPS HERE FOREVER" IF DEMOCRATIC? -- REPLIES US WOULD HELP "ONLY IF WE HELP OURSELVES FIRST."

17. THAILAND

BUCHANAN (CHITRIB 5/15) ASSERTS KEY TO WHICH DOMINO MAY FALL NEXT CONCEALED IN PRES STATEMENT TEN DAYS AGO REASSURING PACIFIC FRIENDS OF CLOSER TIES -- BUT NOT ONE WORD ABOUT THAILAND.

CHITRIB (5/15) DECLARES KUKRIT MADE HIMSELF ABSOLUTELY CLEAR IN PROTESTING MARINES LANDED TO PREPARE FOR MAYAGUEZ RESCUE, AND WE MUST ASSUME HE SINCERE IN SAYING "CANNOT BE FRIENDS WITH THE UNITED STATES ANY MORE." IN MAKING DECISION FOR SELF TODAY, THAILAND HELPED MAKE DECISION FOR US TOMORROW -- BUT WILL BE IN POOR POSITION TO EXPECT US PEOPLE HELP IF NEW COURSE LEADS THAILAND ONTO ROCKS.

18. CHINA

LAT'S HILLINGER (5/14) INTERVIEWS TOM AKERS, PRES NATION'S LARGEST COTTON COOPERATIVE, WHO CLAIMS SOLD MORE COTTON THAN ANY MAN ALIVE BUT "BIGGEST THRILL OF LIFE" WAS SELLING COTTON TO CHINA PAST TWO YEARS. BEST CUSTOMER, JAPAN, IMPORTS MILLION BALES ANNUALLY AT AVERAGE PRICE 250 DOLS, AND EXPECTS CHINA REACH SAME LEVEL SOON. KISSINGER

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